

REMARKS

I. Status of the claims

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite a recording liquid for ink printers that comprises colorants, water, and fine particle of non-photo-curable resins and photo-curable resin, wherein the total solids content of the resin particles ranges between 20 to 80% by weight. Support for this amendment may be found on page 14, lines 16-23 of the specification, which specifically discloses the term “between” when referring to this weight percentage range.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,234,601 (“Hayashi”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,968,244 (“Ueda”).

The Examiner states that because Ueda teaches the range of 1-20%, the upper limit of the range taught in Ueda still meets the lower limit of Applicant’s range, which is 20%. While Applicant believes that the claims pending before this amendment sufficiently distinguish the claimed range over that taught in Ueda, Applicant has further amended the claimed range to more clearly exclude any overlapping range taught in Ueda. Applicant, through this amendment, now claims only the range between 20 to 80% by weight. The term “between,” by its very definition, excludes the two endpoints of a given range. Thus, the recited 20% by weight solids content that could have potentially overlapped with the 20% by weight disclosed in Ueda, clearly does not overlap after this amendment.

Hayashi in view of Ueda does not teach or suggest a recording liquid wherein the total solids content of the resin particles ranges between 20 to 80% by weight, as recited in Applicant’s claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this § 103(a) rejection.

IV. Conclusion

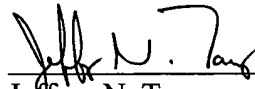
Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application in view of the above amendment and remarks.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claim by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully Submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (twice amended) A recording liquid for ink printers, comprising: colorants, water, and fine particles of non-photo-curable resins and photo-curable resins, wherein the total solids content of the resin particles ranges between [from] 20 to 80% by weight.